

YEAR 86, NO. 25

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1919

SECOND SECTION

"My Three Years in a German Prison"

By Hon. Henri S. Beland, M.D., M.P.

Copyright 1919

CHAPTER XXV.

Incidents and Observations.

A few weeks after entering prison I was called into the office on the ground floor, where I found myself face to face with a person entirely unknown by me.

"I am Mr. Wasserman, manager of the German Bank," said this visitor, introducing himself. "Are you Mr. Beland?"

"Yes, sir, I am," I replied. "Then be seated," he continued. "The day before yesterday I received a letter from one of my fellow-countrymen who is resident in Toronto. He informs me that he has learned from the Canadian newspapers that you are interned here, and he asks me to interest myself on your behalf. My friend adds that he, himself, has not received the slightest annoyance from the Canadian Government. Will you tell me if there is anything I can do for you?"

"You could, no doubt, obtain for me my freedom," I told him. "I would like to do it," he answered, "and I will do all that I can in order to be useful to you, but I really do not know to what extent I may succeed. Is there anything else I can do?"

"Nothing that I know of," he answered. "Is your cell comfortable?" "I occupy a cell in company with three others."

"Would it be more agreeable to you if you were assigned to a cell exclusively your own?" "It would, indeed," I said, "for then I could work with more comfort."

Mr. Wasserman then left me, and a few days after our interview I was removed into a cell reserved for myself alone on the fifth or top floor of the prison. Here the atmosphere was purer than in the other cell, as there was better ventilation. It was brighter, and I had a wider outlook of the sky. I occupied this cell for three years.

The prison was heated by a hot-water system, which was shut off each day at about two o'clock in the afternoon, so that in the evening the atmosphere generally was very cold, so cold in fact, that frequently I would have to get to bed as early as seven o'clock, directly the coils were locked, in order to keep myself warm.

We were allowed to write two letters and four postal cards each month. This was a rule which applied to all prisoners in Germany, without distinction. A letter addressed to a foreign country was detained for a period of ten days, and all correspondence sent by us or directed to us was minutely censored, detention of the letters and seizure of the letters being practised as a "military measure." During the whole period of my imprisonment I never received one single copy of a Canadian newspaper, although I know now that quite a number were from time to time addressed to me.

Courses of instruction in French, English and German were given daily at the jail, but only on very rare occasions were there any religious services, either Protestant or Catholic. I recall only two or

three occasions during the whole of my captivity on which I had the privilege of attending chapel, which was situated in another section of the prison.

German newspapers of all shades of political thought were received in the jail, whether pan-German, Liberal, Conservative or Socialistic in their tendencies. But we were not allowed to read either English or French newspapers, though we knew the big dailies of Paris and London were available at the principal news stands in Berlin. This does not mean, however, that I did not get a glimpse at both English and French newspapers during my captivity. It sometimes happened that one or other of the incoming prisoners had either a London or Paris newspaper concealed in his pockets. There were other means also through which we were able from time to time to obtain newspapers from the Allied countries.

Christmas is always celebrated with great pomp in Berlin. On Christmas Eve the prisoners enjoyed a small celebration amongst themselves. There was a Christmas tree, and two or three officers of the Kommandantur, accompanied by a few ladies, came and distributed gifts, which were, for the most part, of the nature of provisions for the most needy of the prisoners. On Christmas Eve, 1915, enough food was distributed to give each prisoner a good meal. In 1916, when food had become scarce, there was no distribution of provisions, but each prisoner received as a gift an article of underwear or a new pair of socks. In 1917, there was a Christmas tree, but no gifts of any kind. The economic situation in the interior of Germany had become such that neither food nor clothing were available for the prisoners.

(To be Continued.)

Stills Discovered Around Peterboro. Peterboro, Jan. 30.—On Tuesday Mathew Lytle, a resident of Drummer township, pleaded guilty to a charge of keeping and operating a still on his premises. Lytle was fined \$200 and costs, and one month in jail; on default of payment, six months.

A second charge of allowing a still to be on the premises without a license contrary to the Inland Revenue Act, will be dealt with next week. The still, which was produced in court, was a crude affair and consisted of a gasoline tank, which was used to hold the mash, and was put over the fire. The worm or copper pipe carried the vapor from the mash into a condenser, which held cold water. The alcohol came out through the end of the worm in the bottom of the condenser.

Albert Page received a message conveying the sad news of the death of a former resident of Brockville in James G. Christie. The death occurred at Montreal Lake, Saskatchewan, where the deceased had been in charge of a Hudson Bay Co. post. He was a son of the late Hon. W. J. Christie, of Brockville, and was fifty-four years of age.

THE PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY

Between Napanee and Kingston to Be Soon Started. As soon as the frost is out of the ground in the early spring, the provincial highway between Napanee and Kingston will be started. The foundation will be macadam and the surface asphalt. The Government has purchased the stone quarry near Westbrook, which will supply the stone. A steam crusher has been located at the spot. The asphalt work will be done by contract.

The Ontario Government intends taking over the piece of road between Barrie and Gananogue in the spring and work will also be started on it before the year is out. With these two pieces of roadway asphalted, there will be admirable approaches to Kingston.

Dr. J. W. Edwards, M.P., is going to get the Dominion Government to complete the piece of roadway from Barrie to Hill to Gillespie's gate this year. The Ontario Government has granted \$20,000 for work on this road on condition that the Dominion Government pay the balance. The road is about two and one-eighth miles in length and will likely be asphalted.

Two Years For Desertion. London, Ont., Jan. 30.—Pte. William J. Arnot, a London member of the Western Ontario Battalion, who deserted last summer on the eve of the departure of his unit for the front, was sentenced to two years at hard labor in penitentiary. He was tried a week ago by court martial and the sentence originally proposed to the Ottawa authorities was ten years' imprisonment.

The cost of the war to Great Britain was approximately forty billion dollars declared Sir E. H. Holden on Wednesday. Five billion was loaned to the Allies. Germany's war cost, he said was thirty-eight billion of which only two billion was loaned to the Allies.

WAR PUZZLES GOMPERS



GOMPERS DEMANDED That unions call off war supply strikes, one year ago today, January 30, 1918. Find a workman. YESTERDAY'S ANSWER Right side down at left shoulder.

The Tie That Binds THE influence of music in the home cannot be overestimated. Think! Wouldn't every member of the family insist on being home if Alice Neilson was going to sing in your parlor next Wednesday? The most important event you can think of wouldn't keep them away. Alice Neilson will visit your home—not once, but every evening on your Columbia. She, or some other famous singer, will sing your favorite songs, but that isn't all. Charlie may be found of Creator's band, Mary may have a friend in France and long for military music, little Billie would just love "Little Red Riding Hood." You can please them all. The long winter evenings have no dread for the family which owns A COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA. In the past possibly the lack of entertainment at home has been a source of worry to you. The Columbia has solved many a father's problem, as it will for you. Tomorrow you will be passing our store—drop in and ask for Mr. Johnston, who will show you the different styles and give a thorough demonstration of the Columbia Grafonola. Come in any time. THE J. M. GREENE MUSIC CO., LIMITED The Home of Good Music 166 Princess St. Stores at Peterboro, Belleville, Lindsay, Etc. Kingston

THE RAIN OF RATIONS

By William T. Ellis.

"The International Sunday School Lesson for Feb. 2nd, is, 'The Giving of the Manna.'" Exodus 16:1-36.

I was in Great Britain when Lord Rhonda inaugurated his food rationing scheme; and I shall always be glad for the experience. As every traveller knows, the British are famous grumblers about their food; I have heard them grouting clear around the world. Yet when the rationing scheme was put into effect for all, from king to coster, I never heard a whimper. All men adjusted themselves to the rigorous regime cheerfully, for the sake of an ideal. It revealed the truth that character is made great advances since the days of the whimpering Jew, who would have exchanged their liberty for the flesh pots of Egypt. Nobody can contemplate the spirit in which the allied nations carried on under war's restrictions without a sense of pride in the wholesome, brave and idealistic spirit of our people. The spectacle is a discouraging one for pessimists. North America voluntarily rationed itself in order to feed the world. With plenty in its hands, it denied itself for the sake of a service and a conviction.

Bread Lines, Old and New. This far have we advanced, that the number of persons who will voluntarily go hungry for the sake of an ideal is not small. The emancipated Jews were not among them. When the pangs of hunger attacked them, they forgot all about the joys of liberty, about the marvellous crossing of the Red Sea, about the miracles of the plagues, about the Passover and about the twelve springs at Elim, and remembered only the flesh pots of Egypt. They preferred bread with beatings to hunger with honor. One ailment of these wanderers, as of persons not a few to-day, was their inability to take long views, either backward or forward. They could not see beyond the present. When I shivered in the cold of Manchuria I thought that I would never again grumble at the heat; but in India a temperature of one hundred and fifty degrees smote me just as hard as if I had never known zero weather. Past and future were blotted out for these Israelites by the consciousness that they were hungry; if they could only be fed, they foolishly reasoned, they would mind no other ills.

Facing the Verities. A certain mild-spoken son of a preacher remarked, in commenting upon one of his Boyville quarrels, "I don't know why it is, but somehow I never get to be really good friends with a fellow until I have kicked him." There is philosophy lying back of the youngster's remark. Jehovah could never get along with His chosen people until He had shown them His sovereignty, and that they were dependent wholly upon Him. Now once again in the wilderness, in Egypt and at the Red Sea, the Israelites had to be brought face to face with the great verity, that it is God who provides. This was the lesson that was being taught, "line upon line, precept upon precept." In that forty-year season of the Wilderness School, the Jews had to learn before they could become a nation, that Jehovah alone was God, and that He was their God, their guide, their protector, their provider. Proud man has to be made aware of his inefficiency; earth is utterly dependent upon heaven. In the face of a storm, a drought, a flood, he is as helpless as a cockleshell upon the wind-tossed ocean. To learn the existence of heaven it is worth while to feel the shaking of earth beneath one's feet. The tremendous and vital truth of God's providence may not be obscured by secondary causes. What if He chooses to send our daily bread by way of the wheat-field, the miller

and the bake-oven, instead of by rain from heaven? As Malthe D. Babcock sang: "Back of the loaf is the snowy flour, And back of the flour is the mill; And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower, And the sun and the Father's will."

Greedy and Grumbling. Loyalty is the mark of the good soldier. A really fine fighter is sure to be a man who trusts his leaders in adversity as well as in prosperity. The universal revision against the German outburst of whimpering and faultfinding shows that there is a wholesome and instinctive repugnance in human nature against a lack of loyalty and stamina. In what glaring contrast it has been to the spirit of that brave Englishman, Henry, who sang, "In the fell clutch of circumstance, I have not wined nor cried aloud; Beneath the bludgeonings of chance, My head is bloody, but unbowed."

Those ungrateful slaves, "the whole congregation of the children of Israel," turned against their leaders as soon as they felt the pinch of hardship. Hear them: "Would that we had died by the hand of Jehovah in the land of Egypt, where we sat by the flesh-pots, where we did eat and drank to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Poor Moses! He deserves the sympathy which every great leader always deserves and rarely receives; and especial commiseration should be extended to him because he had to work with an uncommonly forgetful, ungrateful, unappreciative and rebellious aggregation of followers. Everybody finds it hard to work with people, and many are prone to say that they have the most uncongenial and difficult company of associates. But Moses really did have a rare lot of spineless grumblers on his hands. What a sermon he could preach on the grace of good nature! Among earth's martyrs must be counted those who have to live with complaining, fault-finding, whimpering and petulant persons. More unhappy homes are caused by nagging and ill-nature than by marital infidelity. Just as this wicked habit (really, is drunkenness much worse?) turns the married state, which God meant to be a blissful one, into a state of torment, so fretting, worrying and fear convert the Christian's relationship with God, which should be a peaceful, confident thing, into a burden and a cross. John Wesley said that he would no more dare to fret than to swear; for he knew that both are expressions of impiety.

The Rain of Bread. The grumbler would grumble in heaven, if a grumbler were ever admitted there. Jehovah undertook to show the Israelites that the root of their complaining lay deeper than the lack of bread. First, though, He made it plain that their murmuring was not against Moses and Aaron, but against Him. Whoever insults the king's ambassador insults the king. They who rail against fate and circumstances are usually railing against God. To vindicate His own glory—which is dearer to Him than men commonly think—Jehovah promised to rain bread from heaven for them day by day—bread in the morning, and, occasionally at least, meat in the evening. It was to come day by day, suggesting that the spiritual life cannot be sustained on past experiences any more than the body on stale manna. Of course all this was a miracle—"Manna?" or "What is it?" cried the astonished pilgrims. But this is not wonderful. The principle of divine providence is so important that God will work any number of miracles to maintain it. Back of the fact and not to be obscured by it, lies the truth. God will care for His own even if He has to send the Angel Gabriel down from highest heaven

to act as one of earth's messengers. "The Lord will provide" is the homely, tested teaching of this event, and of the history of all those whom Jehovah has called His friends throughout the centuries. In a thousand ways during the war, by natural increase of harvest, by the appearance of unexpected allies and resources, by opportune fogs and rains, by the timely arrival of reinforcements, by the development of women workers, we have been taught during the war the old, simple and profound lesson of the good providences of God. He is the Lord of the manna and the ravens and of the widow's cruse. As to the manna, we can only repeat the exclamation of those who first found it—"What is it?" It was plainly not a natural product; we only know why it was sent and the purpose it served. When God's people are in need He brings out of His infinite treasure-house stores new and old for their help. They think lightly of Him who say that He can do no more than He has already done; Jehovah is a God of exhaustless resources. Of late we have been surprised at the possibilities and resources within ourselves, as a nation and as individuals. Who would have dared to predict, five years ago, that North America could perform such wonders in army-creation, food supply and conservation, and financial resources for national service? With the stress of the times, and in a fresh spirit of reverence, our people have made great calls upon God, and not in vain. Whatever the new conditions, whatever the peculiar circumstances, God can be trusted to indicate His Lordship and to take care of His own.

At the first session of Leeds County Council, M. B. Holmes, reeve, of Athens, was elected warden. Mr. Holmes is the first Liberal to occupy the office in many years.

Frank Stafford, the head of the widely known mercantile firm of F. Stafford & Co., Barry's Bay, announces his retirement from business.

WOOD Sawed in Stove Lengths BOOTH & CO., Phone 133 Foot West Street

DR. DEVAN'S FRENCH PILLS A restorative and strengthening pill for men. Restores vitality for Nerve and Brain; increases "gray matter" in brain; will build you up. 25 a box, or two for 45, at drug stores, or by mail on receipt of price. THE SCOBELL DRUG CO., St. Catharines, Ontario. "Sold at Mahood's Drug Store."

TALKING MACHINES All makes of phonographs cleaned, repaired, adjusted. Parts for all makes supplied; expert workmanship, moderate charges, quick service.

J. M. PATRICK 149 Sydenham St. Phone 2056J

What Cash You Need When Travelling

—and more particularly, when large sums are required—is best carried in the form of a Letter of Credit, issued by The Merchants Bank. This old established form of international banking, is preferred by many experienced travellers because of its absolute security. Letters of Credit are cashed only by banks or banking corporations, and after the identity of the holders is established to the satisfaction of the bank officials. This insures safety, and guards against loss and theft.

THE MERCHANTS BANK Head Office: Montreal, OF CANADA Established 1864. Kingston Branch, H. A. TOFIELD, Manager. Verona Branch, J. W. McCLYMONT, Manager. Safety Deposit Boxes to Rent at Kingston Branch.

MATHEU'S SYRUP OF TAR & COD-LIVER OIL CURES Coughs, Colds, Grippe, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, Asthma, Etc. MATHEU'S SYRUP is a sovereign tonic combining the curative properties of TAR and the strengthening virtues of COD LIVER OIL. Colds, when neglected or badly treated give rise to consequences of such a grave character that you should not risk using inferior preparations. MATHEU'S SYRUP is the only genuine remedy whose reputation has caused to crop up many imitations of doubtful value. ON SALE EVERYWHERE

How much are you paying for EGGS? You can save half their cost in baking by leaving some of the eggs out, often one-half or more, and using in place of each egg omitted an additional teaspoon of ROYAL BAKING POWDER Try this method with all your baking recipes. Thousands of women are using it with great success. "It has proved a very satisfactory way of economizing. I've saved about Three Dollars this month and the things I've made don't seem to miss the egg either. They taste just the same." [From unsolicited letter.] MADE IN CANADA